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Norman Cross
Rural District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District

During the year 1961.

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NORMAN CROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : T. E. R. PARSONS

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H. WILLIAMS, J.P.

REV. A. E. BISHOP

(Chairman of the Council)

G. WALKER

G. H. ROME

C. SMITH

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health P. V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector H. E. REEVE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health

Inspector..... A. E. BENNETT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fourth Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

The District lies in the north of the County of Huntingdonshire, being made up of a number of villages. The chief industries are agriculture and brick-making, and there is also some engineering and a tar distillery. Peterborough is easy of access, and a considerable number of the inhabitants of the District work in the town. The A1 road runs right through the area, and is now a dual carriageway.

The health of the District has been satisfactory during the year, and there has been little notifiable disease apart from measles in the early months.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 8,700. The adjusted birth and death rates are this year both slightly above the national average. There were four infant deaths and one maternal death during the year, therefore the infant mortality and maternal mortality rates are poor; but the year 1960 had been a record with no infant deaths, and there had not been a maternal death since 1957.

The Council's housing programme is now going ahead satisfactorily, 50 houses having been completed at Yaxley in 1960, and a further 46 in 1961. Building of 30 houses at Stilton should commence in 1962 to be followed by building at Farcet. New houses are urgently required, because there are still a large number of sub-standard houses in the District which require demolition.

I mentioned last year in my report that the water supply throughout the District had been greatly improved, but that even then it was barely sufficient in some areas. In particular this applies to the higher levels at Folksworth, and to the supply reaching the Orton Longueville booster station along Oundle Road. An improvement scheme for supplying water to the entire District has been drawn up by the Consulting Engineers, considered by the Council, and is now before the Ministry. If this scheme is permitted it will greatly improve the position for many years.

An Informal Enquiry was held on 27th September, 1961, into the Council's proposals for the sewerage of Elton, Holme, and Sibson-cum-Stibbington. The Council are going forward with this scheme as fast as they can, but it has been temporarily delayed whilst the difficult question of farm drainage is being settled. We are all anxious that this matter should not be allowed to delay proceedings any longer than is inevitable.

One of the effects of the Slaughter Houses (Hygiene) Regulations is now becoming apparent. Throughout the Country slaughter houses which were sub-standard have now closed, and those which could be brought up to standard and in addition a small number of new and larger ones, are now coping with a greatly increased kill. For instance the number of pigs killed at Farcet in 1961 is more than two and a half times as many as in 1958. This is proving a heavy burden for the Public Health Inspectors of districts which have slaughterhouses. In this District 100% meat inspection has still been maintained, which is most creditable.

I am glad to note that the Council have decided that the refuse collection, which until now has been from the kerbside, is to be taken from the rear of the premises as from April, 1962. This will be of great assistance to many people, especially the elderly and the sick, who find the removal of a heavy dustbin very difficult to manage. It will also improve the tidiness of the streets.

In concluding I gratefully acknowledge the help given to me by the Members of the Council, their officers and staff throughout the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1961)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8700
Density of persons per acre	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.24
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1961	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2823
Rateable Value, 31/12/61	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£114,580
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/1962	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£470

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	155
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.87
Still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.7
Total live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	157
Infant deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25.8
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.4
Death rate per 1,000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10.9

INFANT DEATHS

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Actual Number of Deaths	2	1	2	5	0	4
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	17.2	7.4	14.7	37.9	0	25.8

Deaths from Cancer (total)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Coronary Disease—angina	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Other Heart Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Norman Cross R.D.C.	17.8	18.9	10.9	13.2	25.8	12.7
England & Wales		17.4		12	21.4	18.7

Comparability Factor for Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.06
Comparability Factor for Deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.21

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	51	44	95
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1	7
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	5	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2	2
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	7	9
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	7	21
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	—	1
20. Other heart disease	4	4	8
21. Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	4	2	6
24. Bronchitis	3	—	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	—	1
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	—	1	1
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	2	5	7
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	3	—	3
34. All other accidents	1	1	2
35. Suicide	—	1	1
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector's Office,
18, Priestgate,
Peterborough.
25th June, 1962.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I have the honour to present my twelfth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

HOUSING :—The number of new dwellings built since 1945 is as follows :—

(a) **By the District Council** :—

Up to 31.12.1959.

			During 1960.	During 1961.
Alwalton	4	Morborne	4	Yaxley 50
Chesterton	2	Orton Longueville	6	Yaxley 46
Elton	18	Orton Waterville	10	
Farcet	44	Stibbington	2	
Folksworth	2	Stilton	28	
Glatton	4	Yaxley	88	
Holme	20			

	Totals	232	50	46=328
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Dwellings under construction by Council :

Yaxley—1 House and Shop.

Plans approved or in preparation :—

Sites at Stilton, Farcet, Alwalton and Elton.

(b) **by Private Developers** :—

The number of dwellings completed since January, 1947 is as follows :—

YEAR	HOUSES	BUNGALOWS	TOTAL
1947/52	33	11	44
1953	20	6	26
1954	20	26	46
1955	24	26	50
1956	29	31	60
1957	16	32	48
1958	19	16	35 *
1959	13	44	57
1960	41	36	77
1947—60	215	228	443

*Including 1 Conversion.

Completed during 1961.

PARISH	HOUSES	BUNGALOWS	TOTAL
Alwalton	.....	4	4
Chesterton	 2		2
Elton	 1		1
Farcet	.....	3	3
Folksworth	 3	1	4
Glatton	.....	1	1
Holme	 1	2	3
Orton Longueville	 19	27	46
Orton Waterville	 1	1	2
Stibbington	 2		2
Stilton	.....	1	1
Yaxley	 1	2	3
	30	42	72

Total private dwellings erected since 1947 — — — 515

Private dwellings under construction at 31st December, 1961 :—

19 Houses and 38 Bungalows — — — — 57 Dwellings

Private Enterprise Housing. The 72 dwellings constructed during 1961 shows almost as good a record as 1960, which was a considerable increase over previous years. Land approved for development, together with sites under construction indicate that for several years this should continue. Development at Lady Lodge Estate (within Orton Longueville Parish, but actually nearer to and eventually to connect with Orton Waterville) is progressing steadily. 38 acres of land at the rear of Latham Avenue, Orton Longueville is planned for development, and building will probably commence in 1962. Stilton, now bypassed, is obviously a village ripe for development; it has the necessary services and is conveniently placed in pleasant surroundings. 65 acres of land around Dundee Farm at Yaxley has been approved for residential development and it is plain from the draft of the Yaxley Village Plan that this village will eventually have major development. Folksworth has ample land available which could be developed if main drainage was provided.

Looking at housing construction over the past 10 years and considering the likely future requirements it is clear that the sewerage of several more parishes should proceed as quickly as possible, and that a comprehensive water improvement scheme is necessary, not only to cope with the present need but to supply the future requirements of what will undoubtedly be a well-housed and growing community.

Council House Building. 46 dwellings were completed on the Yaxley Broadway Estate and a house and shop is under construction; space is available for the erection of garages as and when required and the

estate can eventually be connected at its Northern end by roads to East and West to join other areas of development. An area fronting onto Broadway is available and this has been considered for the building of flatlets for old people; preliminary enquiries having been made during the year.

Land and buildings have been purchased near the church at Stilton and a complete layout prepared; work on the construction of 30 dwellings should commence in 1962.

At Farcet 15 acres of land, with houses and buildings have been purchased. A layout has been prepared and development of this site should follow Stilton.

The Parish have asked for approximately 12 dwellings to be erected at Alwalton, but although the Council own land on the South side of Oundle Road the development of the land is complicated by an underground pipeline, a proposed "Flyover" and difficulties with soil and surface water drainage. The best approach seems to be to co-operate with owners of neighbouring land so that the difficulties can be overcome and a layout prepared for the whole area.

Housing Action and Improvement. Seven demolition orders and five closing orders were made during the year, and one undertaking not to re-let was accepted. 18 houses were actually demolished, 10 being as a result of demolition orders and 8 by agreement without legal action. The new Council houses to be erected at Stilton will make it possible to take action against the many sub-standard houses in the village.

During the year applications were received for four Discretionary Improvement Grants and 28 Standard Grants. This is an improvement on last year's figures, but is still disappointing. Every effort is being made to help and advise owners on Grant applications, but at the present rate of progress it is clear that it will be very many years before every property in the District has the essential minimum sanitary facilities necessary for decent living.

There are no common lodging-houses or overcrowding within the meaning of the Act.

Water Supply. Difficulties were again experienced during the summer months in maintaining a supply to the area supplied from the Oundle Road intake. Some difficulties were also experienced in supplying properties on higher levels at Folksworth; the Consulting Engineers have been asked to report if some temporary measures can be adopted to deal with these matters.

In common with most of the other authorities in the area, a restriction on the use of hosepipes for watering gardens or washing private motor cars was imposed from 1st June to 30th September, 1961. It is now gradually being realised that this unnecessary waste of water must cease if satisfactory pressures are to be maintained throughout the year.

In September the Consulting Engineers presented their Report on a new comprehensive improvement scheme to cover the water requirements of the Rural District for the next 30 years. Briefly this scheme is for larger supply mains from Farcet feeding a reservoir of 750,000 gallons capacity on a high point near Folksworth, with new mains from the reservoir to serve the whole of the District with the exception of Elton; Elton will still be supplied from the existing Booster Station at Orton Longueville. The scheme is now before the Ministry and it is hoped that permission to go to tender will be forthcoming.

During the year 121 domestic, 10 metered and 69 building supplies were connected. There were 36 burst mains and 55 burst services. Water consumption was 54,544.7 thousand gallons on metered supplies and 68,621.3 thousand gallons on domestic, a total of 123,166 thousand gallons. The domestic consumption was 21.6 gallons per head per day. The statistics of the water supply to the District are as follows:

PARISH	Number of Premises	Number Without Main Water	Number of Houses Supplied from Main	Population Supplied from Main
Alwalton	78		78	241
Chesterton	36		36	111
Denton and Caldecote	27	3	24	74
Elton	180		180	557
Farcet	385	1	384	1,186
Folksworth	77		77	238
Washingley	15	4	11	34
Glatton	56	3	53	164
Haddon	22		22	68
Holme	155		155	479
Morborne	17		17	53
Orton Longueville	408	1	407	1,258
Orton Waterville	112		112	346
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	149	3	146	451
Stilton	216		216	668
Waternewton	32	1	31	96
Yaxley	858	7	851	2,630
TOTAL	2,823	23	2,800	8,654

There are no street standpipes.

The water supply to the District is purchased in bulk from Peterborough and is distributed to all Parishes. 28 samples of water were taken and sent for bacteriological examination during the year. Only one sample was unsatisfactory; this sample was from a cold water storage tank in a private house where the supply was suspect. The owner/occupier was advised regarding cleansing of the tank and fitting of a dustproof cover, and this has now been attended to. No chemical examinations of water were made during the year. The main water is within the "very hard" category and is not plumbo-solvent.

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

Drainage. By the end of 1961 drains from 1,382 properties had been connected to the public sewers in Yaxley, Farcet, Stilton, Orton Longueville and Orton Waterville.

An Engineering Inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government visited the District in October to carry out a Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Survey. Detailed particulars of works existing and proposed were supplied to him, and visits of inspection were made throughout the district.

Old Filter Beds on Field 103 off Church Street, Holme, were repaired and brought into use in January. Drainage now being dealt with by these beds previously drained to a tank in a nearby field and discharged to a roadside dyke; this nuisance has now been abated and the old tank and sewers that were hampering agricultural operations have been taken up and filled.

An Engineering Inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government visited the District on 27th September, 1961 to hold an Informal Inquiry into the Council's proposals for the drainage of Elton, Holme and Sibson-cum-Stibbington, (Contracts 9, 10 and 11). The most important points raised at this Inquiry concerned the possibility of dealing with farm drainage and the question as to whether the villages of Wansford and Thornhaugh (in Barnack R.D.C.), should drain to the new disposal works proposed to be erected at Stibbington. If the scheme is designed to deal with farm drainage it may mean some enlargement of pipe and pump sizes and alterations to the detailed design of the disposal works. The Consulting Engineers have been given the information on which to prepare a report on this and other matters raised at the Inquiry.

The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare schemes for the drainage of Alwalton, Chesterton and Folksworth, so that there need not be lengthy delays in providing sewers. Such advanced planning in all construction work ensures that the programme can continue as the finance becomes available.

Refuse Collection. The existing refuse collection method, i.e., fortnightly from the kerbside, was reviewed in October. The obvious possible improvements are (a) to collect from the rear of the property, and (b) to improve on the frequency of collection. The Council decided that as a first step two more men should be engaged to enable the rear collection method to operate as from April, 1962.

Weight of the daily collections is steadily increasing. Even in the summer, when ash is greatly reduced, much of the capacity of the collection vehicle is taken up by cardboard boxes and cartons which are bulky and have no salvage value. The usual paper salvage has continued but the demand from the mills has declined and the price is poor.

Covering and levelling of refuse tips has been carried out as usual, but it is clear that much more regular work in this direction will have to be done in the future.

Meat and Food Inspection. The one licensed slaughterhouse at Farcet continued to operate with a greatly increased kill. Slaughtering is almost entirely in the evenings and at weekends, but 100% inspection has been maintained.

Work of inspecting food preparing rooms continues and there is a steady improvement in conditions.

The statistics relating to food inspection are as follows:

Carcases and Offal Inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	145	2	2	584	4816	—
Number inspected	145	2	2	584	4816	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	—	—	—	183	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	12.41	—	—	—	3.86	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	193	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	4.01	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food Premises.

1. No. of Food Premises by type of business.

Bakehouses	2	} 91 Premises. (None has been counted under more than one heading).
Butchers	4	
Cafes	4	
Fish and Chips	5	
General Dealers	31	
Greengrocers	1	
Public Houses, Clubs	26	
Sweets	9	
Poultry	4	
Works Canteens	5	

2. Number of Food Premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Bakehouses	1
Butchers	3
General Dealers	24
Public Houses	2
Sweets	7
Fish and Chips	5
Cafe	1

3. Number of Inspections of registered food premises—213.

4. Any new Educational activity—Nil.

5. Method of disposal of condemned foods:—Stained green and removed by Contractor. Subsequently treated at Waste Products Plant.

6. Where special examination of a Stock or consignment of food has been necessary the total quantity as well as quantity condemned—Nil.

Miscellaneous. The British Sugar Corporation's settling pond on fields to the North of Oundle Road, Orton Longueville, burst its banks on the 23rd January, 1961, and the mud slurry was deposited over nearby fields in a comparatively thin layer. Although, of course, this is not a method that could be adopted as routine treatment, it is interesting to note that although a considerable amount of work was necessary to clean out dykes and make good to footpaths, the large area on which the mud was deposited allowed fairly quick drying to take place and there was less smell nuisance than usual.

The old pond at Haddon, drained and filled with refuse, has now consolidated and is ready for final soil topping and seeding.

A total of 349 Plans and Applications were examined and placed before the appropriate committees. Applications of particular importance were always referred to the Parish Council concerned. Details are as follows:—

New Houses	58	Day Huts	8
Bungalows	71	Pigsties	3
Garden, Tool and Store Sheds	12	Schools	2
Agricultural Buildings	16	Conversion to Dwellings	1
Garages	59	Electricity Lines	15
Outline Applications	70	Greenhouses and	
Notices and Signs	8	Conservatories	5
New Accesses	4	Petrol Filling Stations	1
Alterations and Additions	49	Caravan Applications	27
		Miscellaneous	26

4,272 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors, as follows—

New Buildings	338	Caravans	35
Sewers and Drains	468	Civil Defence	2
Rodents	61	Council, Committees,	
Refuse Disposal	57	Conferences	39
Water Supply	131	Vermin	13
Council Houses	590	Interviews	1,985
Infectious Diseases	5	Miscellaneous	111
Meat and Food	213	Factories Acts	39
Housing and Public Health Act	185		

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	27	9	Nil	Nil
Building Sites etc.,	37	30	Nil	Nil
Defects	Found	Remedied		Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	2	2		Nil
Sanitary Conveniences unsatisfactory	3	2		Nil

Outworkers. Making wearing apparel 1. Conditions satisfactory.

May I thank the Council, my colleagues and staff for their help during the year.

H. ERIC REEVE,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1961.

Total Deaths	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Cases admitted to Hospital	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
65 & upwards	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
45 — 65	|	|	|	|	3	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|
35 — 45	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
20 — 35	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
15 — 20	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
10 — 15	|	|	|	|	|	5	|	|	|	|	|	1	|
5 — 10	|	|	|	|	|	69	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
4 — 5	|	|	|	|	|	5	|	|	|	|	|	1	|
3 — 4	|	|	|	|	|	7	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
2 — 3	|	|	1	|	|	4	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
1 — 2	|	|	|	|	|	7	|	|	|	|	|	1	|
under 1 year	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
TOTAL	|	|	1	|	|	3	99	|	|	|	|	1	3
DISEASE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
													
													
													
													
													
													
													
													
													
													
													
													
Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jaundice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Meningococcal Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Nr. Peterborough.
Tel. Peterborough 68010

